

Central Valley Ag Tour 2005

Hosted by Congressman Devin Nunes

June 2, 2005

Welcome to the Nunes ag tour

Thank you for being a part of my annual Central Valley Ag Tour of the 21st Congressional District. You will quickly find that this day will be time well spent in becoming better acquainted with the variety and complexity of the agricultural industry here in Fresno and Tulare counties.

There will be plenty to see, hear, smell and taste along the way. While the pace of this tour must be brisk to accommodate the number of stops, I assure you that there will be time for questions, as well as opportunities to deepen your understanding of the many facets you encounter.

I know we'll have fun along the way, and I appreciate the opportunity to get to know all of you better.



Devin Nunes

Ag diversity is Central Valley strength

Since 1948, California has been the nation's top agriculture state in cash receipts. And nowhere is agriculture more significant than the central San Joaquin Valley, where Fresno and Tulare counties top the list in ag production.

In the valley economy, agriculture accounts for more than 21 percent of all income and 25 percent of all employment, according to UC Davis studies.

Even as some commodities struggle from year to year, the region's diverse crops and livestock help maintain its economic strength.

Last year, ag production in Fresno County surpassed \$4 billion for the second consecutive year, with grapes topping the list in crop dollar



Rep. Nunes and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers John Woodley Jr. answering questions at a press conference near Success Dam (May 2005)

value at \$592 million.

Tulare County's ag production surpassed the \$4 billion for the first time with milk topping the list in crop

dollar value at \$1 billion. Milk was the first commodity to pass the billion-dollar mark in value.

Nunes welcomes Sec. A.G. Kawamura

Governor Schwarzenegger appointed A.G. Kawamura as secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in November 2003. Secretary Kawamura is a produce grower and shipper from Orange County, where his family grows strawberries, green beans and other specialty crops.

Secretary Kawamura has a long history of public service to his community and to agriculture. At the time of his appointment, he was a member of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he had served since 1998. He is the immediate past chairman of the Agricultural Technical Advisory

Committee, a USDA advisory position for international trade. He also held board positions with CDFA's Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, a partnership with U.C. Davis, and with the California Institute for Specialty Crops, a partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

In addition, Secretary Kawamura has served as president of the Orange County Farm Bureau, chairman of Western Growers Association, and president of the Orange County Agricultural Association. He has also served as a director on the



boards of the California Strawberry Commission and the California Celerery Research Advisory Board. He was a founding trustee of Sage Hill High School in Orange County.

Secretary Kawamura is widely known for his passion for education and for his commitment to the issues of hunger and nutrition.

Secretary Kawamura has a bachelor's degree in comparative literature from U.C. Berkeley.



AgTAC: Agricultural Technology Application Center

SCE's Agricultural Technology Application Center (AGTAC), is located in Tulare. Agri-business is one of California's largest industries, and Southern California Edison (SCE) has energy solutions for an industry that is becoming more high-tech and complex every day.

We know that whether you are a commercial, industrial, agricultural or residential customer, it's a full time job trying to stay on top of the latest innovations and technical advances. SCE designed its Agricultural Technology Application Center (AGTAC) to help you apply the latest developments in ways that improve your productivity, competitiveness, comfort, or lower your energy bill.

Edison AGTAC, Southern California Edison's 24,000 square-foot Agricultural

Technology Application Center is dedicated to helping customers become more energy efficient and profitable.

AGTAC is your one-stop shop for energy efficiency information.

Lighting Products Center
AGTAC's Lighting Center shows how different lamps, lighting direction and colors can make products more visually appealing.

Edison AGTAC's Lighting Products Center lets you compare the latest in lighting technologies, lamps, and controls available in the market today. The Center houses more than 150 lamp and control options to view and compare color and efficiency for virtually any home, office, or industrial lighting task.

Street Lighting Display
Street lighting has traditionally served the primary

function of illuminating an area. Today, it can be an integral part of a city's plan to enhance its aesthetics, lighting energy efficiencies, and provide security.

On display at AGTAC are many street-light options in a variety of sizes, styles, and colors. Whether it's traditional, modern, or a dash of nostalgia, we have the right combination for you. Choices range from durable concrete poles to graffiti-resistant composite poles, all including the high-efficiency, high-intensity discharge lamps that provide more light for less money and a long lifespan of up to seven years.

Motor Cut-Away and Control Displays

If you are looking for information about the most energy-efficient motor or

Visit them at:
www.sce.com



pump, or are looking for help with ways to operate your equipment more efficiently, we have hands-on displays and valuable advice for you at AGTAC.

Pumping Technology Station

AGTAC utilizes the hands-on water pumping exhibit station to showcase energy-efficient ways to pump water. It is used as a learning tool to convey hydraulic principles.

Through comparisons, you can observe such things as inefficient applications of pump design, incorrect flow meter locations, and system degradation.

California Dairies, Inc.

California Dairies, Inc. is the number one dairy cooperative in the number one dairy state in the United States. California Dairies, Inc. is the result of a successful 1999 merger of three of California's most financially successful cooperatives; California Milk Producers, Danish Creamery and San Joaquin Valley Dairymen. All three cooperatives were rich in tradition and established their roots back near the turn of the 20th century.

California Dairies, Inc. is owned by 680 California dairies who ship over 14 billion pounds of milk to be sold and processed annually. These members have nearly \$100 million of equity invested in

the Company. The owners have dairies located from San Diego County in the south to Marin County in the north. Most of the milk supply is located in the San Joaquin Valley from Kern County to San Joaquin County.

California Dairies' processing plants are strategically located throughout its milk procurement area. This allows for maximum efficiencies in milk receiving and milk transportation cost savings.

The plant in Artesia is primarily a condensing and bulk fluid products plant. It serves as a balancing plant for the huge southern California fluid sales market.

The next plant to the

north is located in Tipton. This is one of the largest plants in the nation and is set up to dry milk, manufacture butter and make a variety of condensed products.

Fresno is the next plant going north and has a number of dryers and extensive butter churning and printing lines.

The Los Banos plant has a number of dryers also, and can do specialty products. This plant also condenses and makes cheddar cheese for manufacturing.

The plant furthest north is located in Turlock. This plant



has state of the art equipment producing powders and a variety of different consumer size packages of butter.

Most of the plants are capable of producing low, medium and high heat nonfat dry milk powder, dry whole milk powder and dry butter-milk powder.

Visit them at:
www.californiadairies.com





Fernandes Dairy

Joe Fernandes and Sons Dairy is a third Generation family partnership between Joe Fernandes and his five sons Greg, Gary, Frank, Jared, Josh.

Joe and his brother Johnny bought out their father Frank Fernandes in 1958 and started milking 200 cows on a rented dairy.

In 1984 Joe and Johnny split equity and Joe started a partnership with his sons as each one came home from college.

Today, Joe Fernandes and Sons Dairy consists of over 4500 acres of farm ground 3500 head of milk cows and 3000 head of replacement stock. The Farm grows all of the forage needs for the dairy along with Cotton for crop rotation.

In the fall of 2000 cows were moved to a new facility built in Porterville California. The 3000 cows are milked 3 times a day with a 72 stall rotary parlor.

Rotary parlors are built so cows enter from a fixed point, ride a rotating disk and exit at a second fixed point. Since the disk rotates, operators remain at fixed positions and cows pass by as the disk turns. After the milking unit is attached, the cow moves past the operator who attached the claw. If the milking machine liners slip or fall



off, a special effort must be made by someone to adjust or reattach the milking claw.

The cows are housed in

sand bedded freestalls. The dairy produces over 30,000 gallons of milk per day, and has 26 employees.

Sierra Forest Products

Sierra Forest Products is a locally owned and operated company started in 1967.

The company produces kiln dried, surfaced lumber. The species of trees used are 50 percent white fir, 40 ponderosa pine and sugar pine and 10 incense cedar. About 90 percent of the lumber produced is sold and shipped by truck throughout California, Arizona, New Mexico

and Texas.

The company works year-round and employs 150 people at the Terra Bella plant. Until recent years approximately 95 percent of the logs were purchased from the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. Due to the present reluctance of the Forest Service to actively manage their lands, this is presently at about 50 percent. The re-

mainder is purchased from Mountain Home State Forest, the Tule River Indian Reservation and from private landowners.

Sierra Forest products also produces by-products that include wood chips, bark, sawdust and shavings. Some of the by-product is burned in their power plant for electrical generation. It produces enough energy to supply

about 7,500 homes with electricity.

The annual gross sales of lumber and by-products total \$28 million with an annual payroll of \$4 million at the Terra Bella plant and an additional \$2 million for employees working in logging.





LoBue Brothers

The LoBue Bros., Inc. story begins in 1934 with Philip LoBue, an Italian immigrant, who 20 years earlier had migrated to America with the dream of providing his family with America's promises and opportunities. He had supported his family on a 10-acre orchard near San Jose, California, growing, packing and selling cherries, prickly pears and vegetables. But, he had always been intrigued with the business of citrus farming, the occupation of his ancestors on the shores of Sicily. He made a down payment on a 40-acre orange grove near Lindsay, California, but then illness forced him to turn it over to his sons, Mario, Fred, and Joe. Reluctantly, the two older brothers moved to the Lindsay ranch to take over the grove's care.

In 1938, after having been

defrauded out of two crops, the young men bought some used packing equipment and began packing their crops in a shed on the ranch. In the beginning, the entire citrus crop was sold in the San Francisco and San Jose produce markets, using contacts their father had developed over the years. Friends and neighboring growers saw the LoBue brothers' success, and asked them to pack and sell their oranges also. A growing enterprise was born. Today, LoBue Bros., Inc. is the largest independent commercial packer and marketer of oranges in the industry.

As the company's volume of business has grown, so has the market area served. When the brothers first started packing on the ranch, their entire harvest was sold in the San Francisco area. Today, fruit packed by LoBue

Bros., Inc. reaches markets all over the United States, Canada, Pacific Rim, Australia-New Zealand, Europe, and other areas.

To meet the requirements of new and ever evolving markets, the policy of continued upgrading to the most modern plant and equipment obtainable helps insure growers a truly efficient and productive packinghouse, along with providing the flexibility to supply customers with a sound, reliable package of fruit in a vast array of choices.

LoBue Brothers is proud of their achievements, accomplished by what can be characterized as sitting on a three-legged stool, all of equal importance: growers

providing fine, marketable fruit; a professional, dedicated management,



staff, and workforce to prepare the fruit for market; and solid, reliable customers to buy the finished product.

LoBue Bros., Inc. is a living testament to the strength of Philip LoBue's dream.

Visit them at:
www.lobuebros.com

Monrovia Nursery

Back in the 1920s when Monrovia decided to start growing plants in containers, it seemed like a revolutionary idea. But founder Harry Rosedale believed that plants would endure less trauma if they remained in their container until they were ready to be planted in the landscape.

Great ideas like this have made Monrovia a world leader in ornamental plants.



Today we produce more than 2,200 varieties of perennials, conifers, woody ornamentals, shrubs, trees, citrus, camellias, rhododendrons, vines, ferns, grasses and topiaries.

For 76 years, we have focused on growing Distinc-

tively Better plants. Better soil mixes, better irrigation systems, better propagating, pruning and planting equipment and better expertise about plant varieties. Human hands touch every one of the 22 million plants we produce each year. The result...Monrovia plants will not only survive, they will thrive in home gardens.

Our People
They are not just employ-

ees...they are craftsmen, proud of their skill and dedicated to improving the craft of plant production. In peak season, we have more than 2,000 craftsmen working in our six growing locations. Training is extensive and on-



going.

Our Nurseries

Monrovia is headquartered in Azusa, California, just east of Los Angeles, and operates nurseries in Dayton, Oregon, Visalia, California, Springfield, Ohio, La Grange, N.C. and Cairo, Georgia. These wholesale nurseries, encompassing 4,724 acres, are not open to the public. Our plants are sent from our nurseries in refrigerated trucks to more than 5,000

fine garden centers nationwide.

Our newest state of the art facility, built in 1989, includes over 1,000 acres. It is situated in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. Production focuses on plants best suited for the mid-west and Eastern U.S.

Visit them at:
www.monrovia.com